Canada Post NHL Issue Honors Great Goalies

Less than a week before the 2015-16 National Hocky League season opened, Canada Post on October 1, 2015 issued six stamps honoring some of the finest goalies to play in the NHL between 1952 and 2015.

The 2015 NHL Great Canadian Goalies set highlights Lorne "Gump" Worsley (Montreal Canadiens), Johnny Bower (Toronto Maple Leafs), Tony Esposito (Chicago Blackhawks), Bernie Parent (Philadelphia Flyers), Ken Dryden (Montreal Canadiens) and Martin Brodeur (New Jersey Devils). All six won the two most coveted of prizes, the Stanley Cup Championship and the Vezina Trophy recognizing the NHL's best goalkeeper.

"Many people dream of playing in the NHL, but only a distinguished number of players achieve it; and an even smaller, esteemed group leave a timeless impression," says Bill Daly, NHL Deputy Commissioner. "Having some of the greatest NHL goalies immortalized on these stamps is remarkable; a true testament to their impact on hockey fans around the world. We're proud to share this momentous occasion with the players, their loved ones, and the fans."

The stamps feature head-and-shoulders images of the players in uniform, and the way fans remember them: four of the six are in masks, while Worsley and Bower are not.

Oversize rate souvenir sheets resembling hockey cards and featuring full images of the players in game action are also offered. The back of the souvenir sheets complete the hockey-card experience, offering career statistics that tell part of the players' professional story. They are available in packs of six, like hockey cards.

Here's a brief background on the six goalies:

Lorne "Gump" Worsley played for the New York Rangers (1952-53, 1954-55 to 1962-63), Montreal Canadiens (1963-64 to 1969-70), and Minnesota North Stars (1969-70 to 1973-74). He won the Calder Memorial Trophy as rookie of the year for the Rangers in 1953, won the Stanley Cup four times with the Canadiens and the Vezina Trophy twice while with the Canadiens. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1980.

Johnny Bower played for the New York Rangers (1953-54, 1954-55, 1956-57) and Toronto Maple Leafs (1958-59 to 1969-70). Bower was a pioneer of the goalie poke check—diving headfirst into an oncoming player's stick and skates to dislodge the puck, without the protection of a mask. A member of Toronto's last Stanley Cup (sorry, Leaf fans), Bower captured four Cup Championships in his career (1962, 1963, 1964 and 1967), won the Vezina Trophy twice (1961 and 1965) and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1976.

Tony Esposito played for the Montreal Canadiens (1968-69) and the Chicago Blackhawks (1969-70 to 1983-84). He started his NHL career making 13 regular season appearances for the Montreal Canadiens in 1968-69. A year later, he won the Calder Memorial Trophy as rookie of the year as a member of the Blackhawks, won the Vezina Trophy in 1970, 1972 and 1974 and played in the 1972 Summit Series against the Soviet Union. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1988.

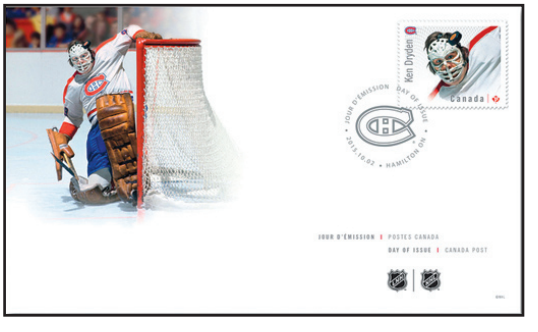
Bernie Parent played for the Boston Bruins (1965-66 to 1966-67), Philadelphia Flyers (1967-68 to 1970-71, 1973-74 to 1978-79) and Toronto Maple Leafs (1970-71 to 1971-72). Considered by many as the last great standup goalkeeper, Parent won the Stanley Cup, Vezina Trophy and Conn Smythe Trophy as most valuable player to his team in the playoffs in 1974 and 1975. His white Fiberglass mask with Flyers logos at each temple became iconic, making the cover of Time magazine in 1975. An injury to his right eye ended his career at age 34. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1984.

Ken Dryden played for the Montreal Canadiens (1970-71 to 1972-73, 1974-75 to 1978-79). "The Game," one of several books authored by Dryden, was published in 1983 and described by one journalist as an intriguing "meditation on hockey's special place in Canadian culture." Dryden won the Stanley Cup Championship six times. He remains the only NHL player to ever win the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP before winning the Calder Memorial Trophy as rookie of the year. In just more than seven full seasons, Dryden won the Vezina Trophy an amazing five times. He also played for Team Canada in the 1972 Summit Series against the Soviet national team. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1983, his first year of eligibility.

Martin Brodeur played for the New Jersey Devils (1991-92 to 2013-14) and St. Louis Blues (2014-15). A great puck-handler, Brodeur won the Calder Memorial Trophy in 1993-94, his first full year as the Devils' starter, and the Stanley Cup Championship three times over his career. He was a four-time Vezina Trophy winner, and five-time winner of the William M. Jennings Trophy for the fewest goals against. Brodeur also won two Olympic gold medals with Team Canada in the 2002 and 2010 Winter Olympic Games, and is the only goalie in NHL history with eight 40-win seasons.

The 2015 NHL Great Canadian Goalies set was the third of a five-year collection of NHL stamps leading up to the NHL's 100th anniversary in 2017. The issue builds on the NHL Team jerseys stamps released in 2013 and the Original Six defensemen issued in 2014. Canada Post has produced more than 50 NHL-themed stamps since 1992.

The stamps are available in a mixed booklet of six, one for each player. The oversize rate hockey-card-size souvenir sheets are available in a pack of six, as well. Also issued was a gummed mini-pane (above) featuring all six players. The mini-pane features embossed, foiled logos of the team each player was best known. The Official FDCs (shown, the Dryden FDC) were cancelled in the birthplaces of the players.



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